



THURSDAY EVENING, JAN. 21, 1909.

From Washington.

(Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.)

Washington, Jan. 21.

It is said here that never before have

affairs approached so near to the point

of a rupture of friendly relations between

Japan and the United States as they

have within the past few days. It is

said that President Roosevelt foresees

the gravest consequences, if the legis-

lature of California insists on passing

the anti-Japanese bills now pending.

He hopes that the legislature will accept

the advice of Gov. Gillett that the bills

be killed not only in order that Japan

may be given the "square deal" in view

of the carrying out by the government

of its end of the immigration agreement

entered into two years ago, but also for

the sake of international peace. The

report of the general staff on the de-

fenselessness of San Pedro Bay, Cal.,

given out today, shows it is claimed how

easy it would be for Japan to obtain a

base in this country, in the event of war.

Other points on the Pacific coast, it is

said, are only a little better protected.

It is pointed out today that this is Cal-

ifornia's second offense. Once before the

"big stick," prevented the enactment of

similar bills. Californians in Washing-

ton generally deplore the attitude taken

by the more radical members of the leg-

islature, while at the same time they are

open in expressing their regret that

President Roosevelt did not need their

request last summer to retain the battle-

ship fleet in the Pacific ocean. The

president's answer to this criticism is

that were the fleet there now, Japan

might very readily assume that the ac-

tion of the legislature was connived at

by the federal government for the very

purpose of bringing on war. The ab-

sence of the fleet is of itself an assur-

ance that the federal government has

had no part in the threatened legisla-

tion. That the figures on Japanese im-

migration to the Pacific coast which have

been compiled by the Department of

Commerce and Labor are authentic and

that the figures compiled by the Japan-

ese Exclusion League of the Pacific

coast are calculated to arouse unjustified

antagonism, is the attitude of the ad-

ministration. While no statement was

given out, it is known that the

president and the State Depart-

ment are inclined to look upon

the alarming figures of the increase of

Japanese immigration complied by the

coast people as unfounded. The pres-

ident is reported to have told his callers

today that if he could get the sensible

people of California to thinking for them-

selves, they would be on his side and

the agitation would be stopped. The

authorities at Washington take the atti-

tude that the passage of the disputed

bills by the California legislature would

be the violation of a contract that that

state entered into two years ago in which

it was virtually agreed that the nation

should handle the Japanese problem in

the Pacific coast states.

That the immediate fortification of

the San Pedro harbor in southern Cal-

ifornia is necessary for the welfare of

the nation, is the statement made in a

report to Congress by the general staff

of the army today. The report lays

special stress upon the case with which

under existing conditions, Japan could

occupy the harbor and use it as a base

for operations against the rest of the

Pacific coast and the Panama canal.

Japan is not named anywhere in the

report, but is referred to as "a certain

oriental power" which has recently ac-

quired great potential strength as an

enemy. The board estimates that it

would cost \$8,655,269 to fortify the har-

bor.

The international crisis brought about

through the anti-Japanese situation in

California brought a number of mem-

bers of Congress hurrying to the White

House today to discuss the question with

President Roosevelt. While these de-

livered an address before the members of

the Cameron Club at Christ Church

Parish Hall, taking for his subject,

"Prohibitory Rains in the Southwest."

The lecture was illustrated with stereo-

scopic views and was very interesting.

A preliminary survey looking to the

improvement of the Mataponi river,

Virginia, was today approved by the

Senate committee on commerce.

Lieut. Col. Clarence P. Townesley,

commanding the artillery district of

Pennsylvania, has been promoted to the

command of the artillery district of

Chesapeake Bay. He will relieve Col.

Geo. F. E. Harrison, who is placed on

the retired list as the result of his in-

ability to take the horsemanship test.

The military affairs committee today

approved the bill granting to all com-

missioned officers who saw more than one

year's service in the civil war a pen-

sion of \$50 a month, providing they do not

hold a state, federal or municipal pension

which pays the same or a higher amount.

The amendment proposed by Mr. Sher-

wood (dem. Ohio), was also adopted.

It provides, with similar restrictions,

that enlisted men shall receive a pen-

sion of \$25 a month.

The model of Old Ironsides, the his-

toric frigate Constitution, was removed

from the reception room of the Navy

Department today to the Naval Museum

at the Washington navy yard. It was

accompanied by the petition of 20,000

names which was drawn up by Eric

Pape, a Boston artist. This petition

was gotten up by the patriotic people of

New England and presented to Congress

for the purpose of saving the old frigate

from destruction, it having been sug-

gested by Attorney General Bonaparte,

then secretary of the navy, that the old

ship was worthless and should be used

as a target.

Because of the evident hostility of

several of the senators to the automobile

as a vehicle for high officials of the gov-

ernment, the Senate committee on ap-

propriations in reporting the urgent

deficiency appropriation bill struck out

the provision made by the House for

\$12,000 for the "purchase, care and

maintenance of autos for use of the

president."

When a judge issues an injunction like

that of the Buck's Store and Range Com-

pany, it is the judge who defies the law, and not

the citizens who refuse obedience to his in-

junction mandates, who would deprive them

of their constitutional rights. In the above

language Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell

and Frank Morrison, the labor leaders re-

cently sentenced to jail for contempt of court,

characterized the decision of the court in a

joint statement in the February federalist.

The decision is reviewed at length and it

is declared that the court's action opens for

final settlement the question as to the right

of free speech and free press.

Plans for consolidating all the mechanical

branches of the navy yards under one head

and to place the entire operation of the yards

more directly under their command, will

be considered at a conference to be held at

the Navy Department on Saturday. It is expected

that the conference will be a special message

making recommendations for the reorganiza-

tion of the Navy Department in accordance with

the plan agreed upon at the naval conference

of last Friday. It is understood, however,

that a commission be authorized by

Congress to work out the details of the reor-

ganization by which it is hoped to change the

present unwieldy bureau system.

News of the Day.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller has given

another \$1,000,000 to the University of

Chicago.

A report in London that the Duke

of Abruzzi would renounce his title and

marry M. de Elkins, is denied at the

Italian embassy.

A joint session of the General Assem-

bly of Illinois adjourned yesterday in a

deadlock over the United States sena-

torial contest.

The Tennessee legislature yesterday

passed the state-wide prohibition bill

over the governor's veto. The law be-

comes effective July 1, 1909.

The National Board of Trade in ses-

sion in Washington yesterday adopted

resolutions condemning the McComber

bill for the federal inspection of grain.

Arbitration treaties with Costa Rica,

Austria-Hungary and Chili and a na-

tionalization treaty with Nicaragua were

yesterday acted upon favorably by the

Senate committee on foreign relations.

Fifty-three workmen lost their lives

and two score more were injured yester-

day morning in the fire which destroyed

the intermediate crib in Lake Michigan

used in the construction of a new water

tunnel.

A message from the president, sub-

mitting the final report of the James-

town Tercentennial Exposition Commis-

sion, with the recommendation that two

copies be printed, was received in both

houses of Congress yesterday.

Attorney General Bonaparte reports

that 34 special agents are now employed

by his department. "There were also

employed from time to time," he says

during the fiscal year 1908, "a consider-

able number of persons whose names

were submitted by the chief of the secret

service."

Charged with the murder of former

United States Senator Edward Ward

Carmack on the afternoon of November

9 last, Col. Duncan B. Cooper, his son,

Robin J. Cooper, and John D. Sharpe

were yesterday arraigned in the Davidson

court, Tenn., Criminal Court. Four

jurymen were sequestered during the day.

Three unknown Italians deliberately

shot and killed Scanlon Carmello and

fatally wounded Finizio Gaetano, on a

lonely road near Middletown, N. Y.,

Tuesday night, that they might abduct

the handsome young bride of Gaetano,

whom he married recently in Italy. The

woman was carried off and found later,

half-crazed, in a contractor's shack.

President Roosevelt has created a Na-

tional Council of Fine Arts and directed

that hereafter the heads of executive de-

partments, bureaus and commissions,

before any plans are formulated for pub-

lic buildings or grounds, or for the

location or erection of any statue, must

submit them to the council and follow

their advice, unless for good and suf-

ficient reasons the president directs other-

wise.

Mrs. Kate Sullivan, sixty years old,

was attacked on a street in northwest

Washington by a thug last night and

robbed of her purse and felled to the

ground by a blow in the face. In wrench-

ing the purse from the woman's hand

the thief dislocated his victim's left

wrist. Mrs. Sullivan is at the Home-

opathic Hospital in a weak condition,

suffering from the injury to her arm and

from shock. She was so frightened that

she failed to obtain a description of the

man and cannot tell whether he is a

light-skinned negro or a white man.

All Mr. Taft wants of the southerners

is that they like him for 864 days in

the year. He does not care about the

865th, or election day. The president

elect made this plain yesterday in a

speech before 10,000 Augustans on one

of the principal streets. The meeting

was in the nature of a formal farewell

to Mr. Taft who will leave there on Sat-

urday for Charleston. Although Mr.

Taft and John D. Rockefeller have been

at the B'n'r Hotel since Monday,

they met for the first time last night at

the banquet in honor of the president-

elect.

The military appropriation bill, as ap-

proved yesterday by the House commit-

tee on military affairs, provides for a

general staff corps, to consist of a chief

of staff and two general officers to be de-

tached by the president from the army

at large and to be not below the grade

of brigadier-general; four colonels, six

lieutenant colonels and six majors, to be

detached from corresponding grades in

the army under such rules for selection

as the president may prescribe. The bill

carries a total appropriation of \$98,-

295,406, as against \$104,000,000 asked

for and \$94,371,000, the amount of the

present appropriation.

Four men were killed and ten others

injured, one fatally, when several tons

of dynamite in one of the buildings of

the Fort Lee Powder Works at Lake

Hopewell near Newark, N. J., blew up

yesterday. The explosion of the huge

mass of explosives shook the coun-

try for miles around and blew the build-

ing into atoms. Of the fourteen men

working in it not one escaped death or

injury. The Fort Lee Powder Works be-

long to the Dupont Powder Company, and

manufacture blasting dynamite. The force

of the explosion was felt all over Philadel-

phia, and people thought it was an earth-

quake.

Two unknown steamers collided yesterday

off Flamborough Head, England, one

sinking within a few minutes. It is believed

that the entire crew of the steamer which

sank were lost.

Virginia News.

Mr. Hill